

Greenways and Trails TIDBITS

August 2008 SPECIAL Edition

Information provided in this newsletter is taken from other sources and the Greenways and Trails Program strongly recommends that you go to those resources directly for the complete information about an activity or event.

ADA Rulemaking Proposed for “Power-driven Mobility Devices” (courtesy of American Trails)

We'd like to bring your attention to two important issues that will affect all trail users, planners, and managers:

1. Use and definitions of powered vehicles for ADA accessibility

ADA rule making proposed for "power-driven mobility devices"

“Should motorized devices that use fuel or internal-combustion engines (e.g., all-terrain vehicles) be considered personal mobility devices that are covered by the ADA?”

This is one of the questions asked by the Department of Justice (DOJ) in a request for public input. DOJ is proposing to add a category of “other power-driven mobility devices” to accessibility regulations for state, local governments, and businesses. **All comments must be received online at [Regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) by August 18, 2008.**

Trail managers and supporters, as well as some accessibility advocates have raised concerns about the proposed rules and definitions for mobility devices. Some Segway users make a good case for being allowed to use these devices in buildings, on trails, and on sidewalks, in place of wheelchairs. The concern is that without careful wording, any person who says they have a disability will be allowed to operate any device that increases their mobility, even if the use of such devices in that location are prohibited for all other people. It would then be up to individual land managers to evaluate trails and areas to post regulations concerning specific types of mobility devices.

35th Annual Natural Areas Conference: <http://tn.gov/environment/na/>

This joint conference of the Natural Areas Association (NAA) and the National Association of Exotic Pest Plant Councils (NAEPPC) will be held in Nashville, TN on October 14-17, 2008. The Conference is hosted by the TN Dept. of Environment and Conservation.

For more information, go to: <http://www.naturalarea.org/08conference/>.

Tennessee Trails Association Annual Meeting: <http://www.tennesseetrails.org/>

The TTA Annual Meeting will be October 24-26, 2008. For more information, go to <http://www.tennesseetrails.org/2008agm.php>.

International Mountain Bike Association: www.imba.com

IMBA is currently taking applications for the REI Volunteer Stewardship Challenge, IMBA/USAC Trail Tune Up, and IMBA/Clif Bar Trail Preservation Grants. September 1st is the deadline for all three grants. See more info at <http://www.imba.com/resources/grants/>. Please let me know if you are interested in applying for one of these grants and would like assistance.

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Please send your **EVENT** information to Bob Richards as soon as you are aware of the date for inclusion in the Greenways and Trails TIDBITS newsletter. It will be included in the TIDBITS as space permits. This newsletter is produced bi-monthly, or when there is enough information to distribute.

2008 Calendar of Greenways and Trails Events

Bicycle Ride Across Tennessee (BRAT)	September 14-20, 2008	Upper East Tennessee
Governor's Land & Water Forum IV	October 8, 2008	Cumberland Mountain State Park
TN Trails Association Annual Meeting	October 24-26, 2008	Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN
Southern Appalachian Greenway Alliance Conference – Building Healthy and Wealthy Communities	October 24-25, 2008	Abingdon, VA
National Trails Symposium	November 15-18, 2008	Little Rock, AR
TRPA Annual Conference	November 17-21, 2008	Memphis, TN



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